ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Board of County Commissioners

FIRE RESCUE

3657 GAINES ROAD SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA 32084



PHONE: (904) 209-1700 FAX:

Received & Inspected

FCC Mail Room

(904) 209-1716

March 27, 2012

Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

RE:

St. Johns County, Florida

Request for Waiver

Enclosed herewith please find Request for Waiver of the narrowbanding deadline of January 1, 2013.

St. Johns County Florida requests said waiver on behalf of all of the Public Safety agencies and Government entities within St. Johns County, Florida which includes the following Licensees:

Saint Johns, County of

Saint Johns County Sheriff's Office

Saint Johns County Fire Rescue

St. Johns County Road & Bridge Department

St. Johns County Utility Department

St. Johns County Animal Control

St. Johns County Golf Course

City of Saint Augustine Beach Police Department

City of Saint Augustine Beach Public Works

City of Saint Augustine Police Department

City of Saint Augustine

City of Saint Augustine Fire Department

Town of Hastings, Florida

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Gia M. Reynolds

St. Johns County Fire Rescue

Aia M. Reynlds

Communications Coordinator



Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

Haselved & Inspected
MAR 28 2012
FCC Mail Room

In the Matter of:

LICENSEES:	CALL SIGNS:		
Saint Johns, County of	KTE750	WPMS707)	
3657 Gaines Rd.		KGL556)	
St. Augustine, FL 32084	WPMM639	KN1V203	
St. Johns, County of Road & Bridge 1625 SR 16 Saint Augustine, FL 32095	WPED245))))	
St. Johns County Animal Control 1425 Old Dixie Hwy. Saint Augustine, FL 32084	WQBG507)	
Saint Augustine Beach Police Department 2300 A1A S St. Augustine Beach, FL 32084	WPWU514))))	
Saint Augustine Beach, City of Public Works 2200 SR A1A South St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080	WPUS449)	
St. Johns, County of	WQIH452	WNUU703)	
Sheriff's Office	WPLR584	KIC244)	
4015 Lewis Speedway	WPFY991	WQIH312)	
St. Augustine, FL 32084	WNYZ549	WPWE809)	
City of St. Augustine Police Department P.O. Box 210 75 King Street St. Augustine, FL 32085-0210	KIE804))))	
City of St. Augustine P.O. Box 210 75 King Street St. Augustine, FL 32085-0210	KNHZ952 WNQJ349 WHW766 KD38676	WNNM835) WNMT280) WHW599) WPOP350)	

City of St. Augustine	KXC997)
Fire Department)
P.O. Box 210	•)
75 King Street)
St. Augustine, FL 32085-0210)
St. Johns County Utility Dept. 1205 State Road 16 St. Augustine, FL 32084	WPWE860	WQDN324)
St. Johns County Golf Course 4900 Cypress Links Blvd. Elkton, FL 32033	WQBR499)))
Town of Hastings 6195 South main St., Suite A Hastings, FL 32145	WPDY656)

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF SECTION 90.209(b) OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES FOR THE JANUARY 1, 2013 DEADLINE FOR MIGRATION TO NARROWBAND TECHNOLOGY, PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO POOL

Pursuant to Section 1.925 of the Rules of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission), the above referenced licensees ("Licensees") request a waiver of the Commission's requirement for the Licensees to complete migration to narrowband technology by January 1, 2013 in the Public Safety Radio Pool.

The Licensees recognize that the Commission has long emphasized its commitment to the January 1, 2013 deadline and requests waiver for extension of the deadline to June 30, 2013 due to extenuating circumstances to be detailed herein. It is noted that the Commission may waive its rules for good cause shown. In particular, the Commission may find that a waiver of its rules is appropriate where special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule and such deviation would better serve the public interest than would strict adherence to the general rule where the relief requested would not undermine the policy objective of the rule in question and would otherwise serve the public interest.

Additionally, the Licensees claim unique factual circumstances and requests said Waiver as application of the rules(s) would be inequitable, unduly burdensome and contrary to the public interest.

I. INTRODUCTION

Saint Johns County, Florida, is located in Northeast Florida and is 609 square miles in area. The United States Census Bureau estimated 2010 population for Saint Johns County is 190,900. The service area includes unincorporated Saint Johns County, the City of St. Augustine, the City of St. Augustine Beach and Town of Hastings. Saint Johns County provides and receives mutual aid from, and is bordered by, Duval County (Jacksonville, Fl.) to the north (800MHz system), Clay County to the west (800MHz system), Flagler County to the south (800 MHz system), and Putnam County to the southwest (VHF system).

II. BACKGROUND

1. In 2003, the Public Safety Agencies within Saint Johns County, Florida, requested an analysis by the State of Florida Technology Office (S.T.O.) of the various public safety radio systems in use. In the S.T.O. report dated February 13, 2004, the immediate recommendation was to upgrade the existing systems to replace obsolete equipment which was outside the window of manufacturer's support. The recommended long term solution was an interoperable communications system to include all of the county's public safety agencies. The public safety agencies formed

the Public Safety User Group committee consisting of representative from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, City of St. Augustine Police Department, City of St. Augustine Beach Police Department, City of St. Augustine Fire Department, St. Johns County Fire Rescue, and St. Johns County Office of the County Administrator.

- 2. In April, 2004, Saint Johns County, FI., contracted for communications services with RCC Consultants, Inc., Tallahassee, FI., and began Phase I improvements to the existing communications systems to provide adequate communications to the citizens of the county. These measures were considered temporary, as they did not improve the overall communications technology, interoperability and functionality of the various communications systems in use.

 The Saint Johns County Sheriff's Office, Saint Johns County Fire Rescue, City of St. Augustine Police Department, City of St. Augustine Fire Department and City of St. Augustine Beach Police Department desired a plan to improve the public safety radio communications systems within their jurisdictions and to provide communications interoperability with surrounding local, state and federal agencies.
- 3. In the RCC Consultants, Inc. report issued to the Saint Johns County Public Safety User Group committee on January 17, 2005, it was noted that the existing VHF conventional systems used for the delivery of emergency communications for rapid response and potential life saving intervention would not provide effective interoperable communications within or outside of Saint Johns County, Florida.

- 4. Pursuant to the RCC Consultants, Inc. report of January 17, 2005, Phase II, Interoperable Communications, was begun in 2006, with the licensing of the 15 NPSPAC 800MHz frequencies licensed under Call Sign WQFU649 on October 6, 2006.
- 5. As of March, 2007, the User Group committee, working closely with RCC Consultants, Inc., had researched and developed system specifications and a preliminary system design for a county wide public safety interoperable P25 800MHz trunked communications system. It was determined that existing infrastructure would not support the proposed system, requiring a complete replacement of infrastructure, including towers, as part of the Request for Proposal. The proposed county-wide interoperable, 800MHz P25 Trunked Communications System would be built from the ground up.
- 6. The financial crisis of 2007 2010, occurred simultaneously with the search for funding for the proposed communications system and made it difficult, if not impossible, to construct the proposed system under the Slow Growth Implementation Plan of August, 2006 within the construction deadline time frame and completion date of October 6, 2011. A Request for Waiver was submitted to the Federal Communications Commission for extension of the Slow Growth Implementation Plan and was dismissed by the Commission, without prejudice, on June 19, 2010 (File No.: 0004200349). The Licensee continued diligent effort to obtain funding for the new county-wide interoperable 800MHz P25 Trunked Communications System.

BACKGROUND Cont.

II.

7. Effective September 15, 2010, the Licensee was issued Radio Station

Authorization by the Federal Communications Commission for 15 NPSPAC re-

banded channels under call sign WQFU649. On July 12, 2011, it was discovered that

when Sprint-Nextel filed with the FCC to re-issue Call Sign WQFU649 with the re-

banded frequencies, an error was made under Sprint-Nextel DL8910438085. The

FCC license subsequently issued showed a completion of the construction build out

under the Slow Growth Implementation Plan for the then proposed 800 MHz P25

Trunked Communications System. Sprint-Nextel was immediately contacted and

requested to resolve the error. The information was passed to the Sprint-Nextel

Regulatory Department and on July 20, 2011, St. Johns County received the

following response from Sprint-Nextel:

"The FCC recommends that the licensee wait until construction has been

completed...then send a letter of explanation to the FCC, stating the actual

construction occurred on x date, and reference the licensed call signs."

ATTACHMENT A)

III. **CURRENT STATUS**

1. A Request for Proposal SJC RFP# 11-84 – Towers & 800 MHz P25 Trunked

Communications System was released on August 16, 2011.

2. During the summer of 2011, St. Johns County began identification of public

and private lands suitable for construction of the 11 new towers to be included in

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the construction of the county-wide interoperable 800 MHz P25 Trunked Communications System to expedite the System tower construction process. All lands were identified, four parcels of private lands were purchased in October, 2011, and site work to be conducted by St. Johns County Construction Services Department began with initial ground work preparation of the sites. St. Johns County Construction Services developed and released a Request For Proposal for site development of the 11 parcels. Contracts have been awarded and site preparation work is currently underway with anticipated completion in February, 2012.

- 3. On December 6, 2011, after thorough ranking of Proposals received in response to the Request for Proposal, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners authorized the County to begin negotiations with Motorola Solutions, Inc. for RFP# 11-84.
- 4. On December 20, 2011, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners approved the contract for RFP# 11-84 between St. Johns County, FL and Motorola Solutions, Inc. for the purchase of Towers and county-wide, interoperable 800 MHz P25 Trunked Communications System with a construction deadline of December 27, 2012. The contract was signed by all parties on December 20, 2011.
- 5. The Public Safety Agencies in St. Johns County, Florida, will be the first to migrate to the 800 MHz P25 Trunked Communications System. All other

governmental departments within St. Johns County will be eligible to migrate to the 800 MHz P25 Trunked Communications System as their budgetary considerations will permit but are moving forward to be in compliance with the Narrowbanding Mandate by June 30, 2013.

IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - REQUEST FOR WAIVER AND EXTENSION

St. Johns County, Florida, in anticipation of the completion of the county-wide, interoperable 800 MHz P25 Trunked Communications System occurring at the same time, or soon thereafter (in the event of any unforeseen construction delays) the Narrowbanding deadline of January 1, 2013, requests Waiver and Extension of the Narrowbanding mandate to June 30, 2013. The Licensees wish to retain their existing configuration and wideband communications during the time period following completion and system acceptance of the new 800 MHz P25 Trunked Communications System as a fall back option in the event of unforeseen issues with the new system. VHF frequencies and communications equipment which will be retained by the Licensees will be narrowbanded by June 30, 2013. During the extension time period, VHF communications operations will be at a minimal level due to primary use of the new county-wide interoperable 800 MHz P25 Trunked Communications System.

The Licensees request consideration due to the financial impact on the Licensees to narrowband all existing VHF frequencies, most of which will be relinquished (SEE ATTACHMENT B) to the Federal Communications Commission. An additional consideration is the financial burden involved in narrowbanding all existing VHF

Request for Waiver Extension of the January 1, 2013 Deadline For Migration to Narrowband Technology SAINT JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Cont.)

communications equipment, most of which will be rendered obsolete by the new county-wide interoperable 800 MHz P25 Trunked Communications System and removed from service. The estimated expense to narrowband the existing VHF frequencies and equipment is one million dollars.

As the Commission has ruled on February 21, 2012, reference DA 12-245, similar extenuating circumstances presented by County of St. Louis, Missouri, et al, warranted Waiver of the Narrowband deadline, St. Johns County, Florida believes the public interest would be served by granting the requested waiver and extension. Granting the request for waiver benefits all of the public safety agencies within Saint Johns County, Florida, which include the City of St. Augustine Beach Police Department, City of St. Augustine Fire Department, Saint Johns County Sheriff's Office, Saint Johns County Fire Rescue, St. Johns County Road and Bridge Department and St. Johns County Utility Department.

The Licensees are committed to fully complying with the Federal Communications Commission Narrowbanding mandate for VHF frequencies and equipment to be retained and request Waiver and Extension to June 30, 2013.

We request consideration and consent of the Federal Communications Commission that St. Johns County's unique circumstances warrant a temporary extension of the current January 1, 2013 deadline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Request for Waiver
Extension of the January 1, 2013 Deadline
For Migration to Narrowband Technology
SAINT JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES
SIGNATURE PAGE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

AS TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Michael D. Wanchick

County Administrator

Saint Johns County, Florida

500 San Sebastian View

St. Augustine, FL 32084

DATE: 3-25-12

SIGNATURE PAGE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SHERIFF'S OFFICE

DATE:

AS TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

David B. Shoar

Sheriff

St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

4015 Lewis Speedway

SIGNATURE PAGE, CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

DATE: 3.14-12

AS TO CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA:

John P. Regan City Manager

City of St. Augustine, Florida

P.O. Box 210 75 King Street

St. Augustine, FL 32085

12

SIGNATURE PAGE, CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE: 3/13/12

AS TO CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Loren K. Lueders

Chief of Police

City of St. Augustine, Florida

151 King Street

SIGNATURE PAGE, CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, FIRE DEPARTMENT

DATE: 3/19/12

AS TO CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mike Arnold Fire Chief

St. Augustine Fire Department

101 Malaga Street

SIGNATURE PAGE, CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, FLORIDA,

AS TO CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, FLORIDA:

Max Royal / City Manager

City of St. Augustine Beach Fl

2200 A1A South

St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

DATE: 03/15/2012

Request for Waiver Extension of the January 1, 2013 Deadline For Migration to Narrowband Technology SAINT JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES

SIGNATURE PAGE, CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, FLORIDA, POLICE DEPARTMENT

AS TO CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, FLORIDA, POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Richard L. Hedges

Chief of Police

City of St. Augustine Beach, Florida

2300 A1A South

St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

SIGNATURE PAGE, TOWN OF HASTINGS, FLORIDA

DATE: 3-13-12

AS TO TOWN OF HASTINGS, FLORIDA:

Tom Ward, Mayor Town of Hastings, Florida

6195 South Main Street, Suite A

Hastings, Florida 32145

SIGNATURE PAGE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, FIRE RESCUE

AS TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, FIRE RESCUE:

Carl A. Shank

Fire Rescue Chief

St. Johns County Fire Rescue

3657 Gaines Road

SIGNATURE PAGE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT (PUBLIC WORKS)

AS TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT:

DATE: <u>03/13/12</u>

Joe Stepherson

Public Works Director

St. Johns County 1625 State Road 16

SIGNATURE PAGE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

AS TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, UTILITIES DEPARTMENT:

Bill Young

St. Johns County Utilities

Utility Director

1205 State Road 16

ATTACHMENT A

From: Lee, Brenda B [FIN] [mailto:Brenda.Lee@sprint.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 08:29

To: Gia Reynolds Cc: Jeff Prevatt

Subject: RE: Closed DL8910438085 - St. Johns County Florida

Hey Gia,

It looks like our regulatory department finally received the below answer for you. If this does not answer your questions you can give the regulatory person a call at the below number for clarification.

The FCC recommends that the licensee wait until construction has been completed...then send a letter of explanation to the FCC, stating that actual construction occurred on x date, and reference the licensed call signs. Here's the address for the letter:

Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Federal Communications Commission 1270 Fairfield Road Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245

Please call or email if you have any questions, concerns. Thanks!

Garrie
Garrie Losee
Legal Analyst
Sprint Nextel Corporation
703-592-7914 Desk

Thank you,

Project Manager/Spectrum Group, Sprint / Nextel

6575 The Corners Parkway, Norcross Ga. 30092

Cell 678-409-4279

Brenda Lee

Desk 678-823-6162

Fax 404-948-0904

brenda.lee@sprint.com

ATTACHMENT A - Continued

From: Gia Reynolds [mailto:greynolds@sjcfl.us]

Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 2:44 PM

To: Lee, Brenda B [FIN]

Cc: Jeff Prevatt

Subject: Closed DL8910438085 - St. Johns County Florida

Brenda,

Hello – it's been a long time since we corresponded; hope all is well with you. I need your help, please.

Apparently when Sprint-Nextel filed with the FCC to re-issue our license for WQFU649 last year, the filings triggered a Final Construction notification on WQFU649 AND WQFU240 (State Mutual Aid frequencies). We have not constructed our system, but our licenses are showing a Buildout date of 8/27/10, which is incorrect. We are ready to proceed with building a new communications system for both of these call signs, but are at a standstill until the licenses can be corrected to remove the Buildout as listed for 8/27/10.

I have attached the reference copies of the filings. There was a modification on 7-20-11 adding the re-banded frequencies, a notification of construction on 8/27/10 and, on 8/27/10, a modification which removed the old frequencies that were reverting to Sprint-Nextel. Also attached are reference copies of WQFU649 and WQFU240 issued September, 2010 after the Sprint-Nextel filings.

Can you help me? Perhaps someone in your licensing department can figure this one out and correct the Notification of Construction Buildout which was filed in error. Also noted on the license that was issued to us subsequent to your filings, the Construction Deadline had been changed from 10-6-11 to 8-6-11 and we would like to see that corrected to the original 10-6-2011 date listed prior to the licensing of the re-banded frequencies.

Please advise.

Thank you!
Gia M. Reynolds
St. Johns County Fire Rescue
Communications Coordinator
4455 Avenue A - Suite 100
St. Augustine, FL 32084
904.209.1710
904.823.3174 fax

ATTACHMENT B

SPECTRUM TO BE RELINQUISHED BY JUNE 30, 2013

WQIH452	154.650						
WPLR584	153.845	158.790					
WPFY991	154.040	155.655					
WNYZ549	153.740						
WNUU703	156.075	159.060					
KIC244	154.650 155.490	154.770 155.685	154.845 156.060	155.190			
WQIH312	151.250	155.580					
WPWE809	151.250	155.580	156.030	156.090			
ST. JOHNS COUNTY FIRE RESCUE							
KTE750	158.775	153.965					
KYD774	154.310 154.160 154.175	151.115 151.445					
KNIV203	153.965	158.775					

153.875

ST. JOHNS COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

WQBG507 453.900 458.900

158.745

ST. JOHNS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE

WPED245 159.120

WYR859

ATTACHMENT B - Continued

SPECTRUM TO BE RELINQUISHED BY JUNE 30, 2013

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE FIRE DEPARTMENT

KXC997

153.950

154.385

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

KIE804

153.905

155.070